**TRADITIONAL CEREMONY**

**WELCOME**

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all their family and friends They wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all of you, for gathering here today, and as witnesses to share in the joy and happiness of their wedding day.

**OPENING**

\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_, this is the time which you have chosen to become husband and wife. We are here not only to witness your commitment to each other, but to wish you both every happiness in your future life together.  Marriage is a promise, made in the hearts of two people who love each other, which takes a lifetime to fulfill. Within its framework of Loyalty and Commitment, marriage enables the establishment of a home, where through tolerance, patience and respect, the love and affection you have for each other may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

**CONSENT**  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Do you take this woman to be your wife that you may live together in the bond of marriage?  Do you promise to love and honor her, comfort and be faithful to her, so long as you both shall live?   *(Groom answers:  I Do.)*  
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Do you take this man to be your husband that you may live together in the bond of marriage?  Do you promise to love and honor him, comfort and be faithful to him, so long as you both shall live?    *(Bride answers: I Do.)*

**READING** *A reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 13: 4-7*

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is never jealous or boastful; it is never arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people’s faults, but delights in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things.

Faith, Hope, Love abide these three, but the greatest of these is Love.

**REMEMBRANCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to take a moment to remember those special people in their lives who are not with us here today.   May their spiritual presence here today and always continue to influence their lives, providing Love, Strength and Courage to be the best person they can be.

**READING**  
Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage, the *little*things are the *big*things.

It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say "I Love You" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon; it should continue thru all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of Joy.  It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.  It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is *being*the right partner. It is discovering what marriage can be at its best!

**VISION**

As you both share with each other your creative differences,

your life together can become richer, more complete and more soul-satisfying.

Marriage in this high sense is a uniting on all levels of your being: Body, Mind, Heart and Spirit. The longer you live together, the more you will develop and grow as individuals, and the more you will have to contribute to your marriage.

**VOWS**

Before you are joined in marriage in the presence of your family and friends here before you, I am to remind you both of the solemn and firm nature of the relationship into which you both are about to enter. As you have affirmed your intentions, I will now ask you to profess your vows to each other.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:  
I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_*,* to be my wife and commit to be your constant friend and faithful partner.  In the presence of God, our family and friends, I offer my solemn vow to love you unconditionally, maintain a tender heart, and preserve a childlike sense of humor through the challenging times we will face ahead. I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the woman you will become, and falling in love with you a little more every day.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_take you \_\_\_\_\_*,*to be my husband and commit to be your constant friend and faithful partner.  In the presence of God, our family and friends, I offer my solemn vow to love you unconditionally, maintain a tender heart, and preserve a childlike sense of humor through the challenging times we will face ahead.  I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the man you will become, and falling in love with you a little more every day.

**or**

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish for as long as we both shall live.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish for as long as we both shall live.

**EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

Just as a ring has no beginning or end, neither does the love that this couple shares. From this day forward you will be best friends, sole mates and stand by each other's side through whatever life may bring your way.  Through good times and bad, you will live together, grow and change together.  You commit to do all you can to keep your marriage strong and happy and alive with possibilities. From this day forward you will walk together and find peace and happiness, side by side, hand in hand, heart to heart.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_*,*Let this ring be a visible and constant reminder of the love and devotion that I pledge to you today and for the rest of my life.  Wear it always as a symbol of my promises to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_*,*Let this ring be a visible and constant reminder of the love and devotion that I pledge to you today and for the rest of my life.  Wear it always as a symbol of my promises to you.

May these rings always remind you of the unending spirit of love and commitment that the bond of marriage requires of all those who desire this relationship.

**FINAL WORDS**

\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_, you are so very different, yet so similar. Together they stand as one, ready to share their future as it comes. The past is just that - the past. Buds are yet to blossom, and with care and trust, the best is yet to be revealed. Remember that Honesty and Kindness are fruits of love. May you always be mindful of your marriage vows and may the spirit of Love enrich your lives so your love will never end.

(Optional reciting of the Lord's Prayer or something similar)

**Lord’s Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

**PRONOUNCEMENT**

And now, for as much as you both have consented together in the Bond of Holy Matrimony, and have pledged yourselves each to the other in the presence of your family and friends, By the power vested in me by the Great State of New Jersey I pronounce you husband and wife.  \_\_\_\_\_, you may now kiss your Bride!

Rev March 3, 2018